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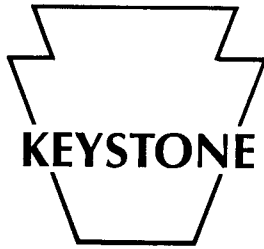
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NASS

USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - - - providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture



Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

Released: Early March 2005

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 05 No. 09

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

USDA to Survey Pennsylvania Farmers

Pennsylvania farmers will be asked to participate in a nationwide survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in early June. Information gleaned from the survey will be used to estimate 2005 crop acreage and mid-year livestock inventories. The Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is operated jointly by USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Farmer cooperation is necessary to provide reliable crop and livestock information. USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board will release national and state reports based on the information in late June.

Results of this survey will provide farmers, agri-businesses, policymakers and other users of agricultural data with the information vital for planning and decision making. All information concerning individuals is **CONFIDENTIAL** and will be used in developing the state and national estimates.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

The combined value of Pennsylvania poultry production in 2004 was \$778.0 million, up 8 percent from the \$720.0 million in 2003. Egg production accounted for 43.7 percent of the total value, broiler production was 41.8 percent of the total, turkey production accounted for 14.4 percent, and the value of mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) accounted for less than 1 percent of the total value.

Total egg production for 2004 was valued at \$339.7 million, down 8 percent from \$371.2 million one year earlier. During the year, 6.59 billion eggs were produced, 169 million eggs fewer than in 2003. Prices for all eggs sold, including hatching eggs, averaged 61.9 cents per dozen during the year, compared to 65.9 cents per dozen in 2003.

Broiler production during 2004 was valued at \$325.5 million, up 32 percent from the previous year. A total of 133.5 million broilers were produced in 2004, up 3 percent from 2003. The average price received by producers in 2004 was 46.0 cents per pound live weight, compared to 36.0 cents per pound received a year earlier.

Turkey producers raised 12.0 million poults during 2004, up 26 percent from the previous year. The value of turkey production in 2004, at \$112.3 million, was 11 percent more than in 2003. Producers received an average of 48 cents per pound live weight during the year, up 1 cent per pound from 2003.

Mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) in 2004 were valued at \$476,000, 7 percent more than the previous year. A total of 15.1 million mature chickens were sold during the year, 19 percent more than in 2003. Prices for mature chickens averaged 0.9 of a cent per pound live weight, down 0.1 of a cent from the previous year.

Nationally, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs and turkeys, and the value of chickens sold in 2004, was \$28.9 billion, up 24 percent from the \$23.3 billion in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2004 was \$20.4 billion, up 34 percent from 2003. The total number of broilers produced in 2004 was 8.74 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 44.6 cents per pound, compared to 34.6 cents per pound in 2003.

Value of egg production in 2004 was \$5.30 billion, down 1 percent from the \$5.33 billion in 2003. Egg production totaled 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 87.5 billion eggs produced in 2003. In 2004, eggs averaged 71.4 cents per dozen, compared with 73.2 cents in 2003.

The value of turkeys produced during 2004 was \$3.07 billion, up 14 percent from the \$2.70 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2004 totaled 7.30 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.49 billion pounds in 2003. The prices received by producers during 2004 averaged 42.0 cents per pound live weight, compared with 36.1 cents a year earlier. The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2004 was \$58.0 million, up 21 percent from the \$47.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, up from 4.9 cents in 2003.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, APRIL 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2004	Mar 2005	Apr 2005 ¹	Apr 2004	Mar 2005	Apr 2005 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	3.46	2.40	2.30	2.89	2.02	1.94
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.79	3.32	3.12
Oats	Bu.	2.11	⁵	2.00	1.63	1.74	1.57
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.78	2.46	2.48
Hay, Dry All	Ton	130.00	120.00	124.00	88.90	89.10	96.90
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	151.00	140.00	146.00	93.00	96.40	103.00
Dry Other	Ton	116.00	107.00	109.00	75.50	70.40	75.40
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.191	.225	.208	.298	.186	.170
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.30	8.00	7.75	6.62	6.21	6.08
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	49.00	52.70	55.20	50.60	55.00	57.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	83.40	88.00	89.40	88.90	95.50	95.60
Calves	Cwt.	110.00	125.00	128.00	117.00	135.00	139.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	45.50	52.10	47.90	47.70	51.50	50.50
Sows	Cwt.	38.00	42.30	41.20	40.70	43.50	42.00
Eggs ³	Doz.	.670	.310	.260	.619	.327	.261
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	18.00	17.50	-	18.10	15.60	15.40
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	20.40	15.40	-	19.00	14.80	15.00
All	Cwt.	18.00	17.50	16.90	18.10	15.60	15.40
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,500.00	-	1,700.00	1,580.00	-	1,770.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

PRICES PAID FOR FUELS AND FEED, APRIL 2004-2005

Commodity	Unit	Northeast Region ¹		United States	
		April 2004	April 2005	April 2004	April 2005
<i>Dollars</i>					
Fuels:					
Gasoline, Service Station (Unleaded).....	Gal.	1.77	2.19	1.750	2.205
Gasoline, Bulk Delivery (Unleaded).....	Gal.	1.82	2.20	1.760	2.225
Diesel, Bulk Delivery	Gal.	1.40	2.02	1.310	1.968
L.P. Gas, Bulk Delivery.....	Gal.	1.59	1.90	1.210	1.466
Feed:					
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	17.30	17.60	14.90	15.40
Alfalfa Pellets	Cwt.	18.00	18.20	15.20	15.20
Bran	Cwt.	13.40	14.60	14.80	15.00
Beef Cattle Concentrate, 32-36%.....	Ton	366.00	287.00	342.00	316.00
Corn Meal	Cwt.	10.60	9.88	9.84	9.57
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	23.40	13.40	18.40	17.20
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	207.00	190.00	218.00	197.00
18%.....	Ton	221.00	202.00	229.00	206.00
20%.....	Ton	234.00	207.00	233.00	206.00
32%.....	Ton	372.00	309.00	381.00	331.00
Hoq Feed, 14-18%.....	Ton	265.00	262.00	256.00	219.00
38-42%	Ton	415.00	390.00	415.00	398.00
Molasses, Liquid	Cwt.	12.10	14.30	14.20	14.80
Poultry Feed, Broiler Grower	Ton	310.00	294.00	278.00	237.00
Chick Starter	Ton	321.00	263.00	299.00	268.00
Laying Feed.....	Ton	260.00	207.00	249.00	226.00
Turkey Grower	Ton	289.00	253.00	315.00	315.00
Soybean Meal, 44%.....	Cwt.	19.50	16.00	19.60	16.10
Stock Salt.....	50 Lb.	5.68	6.42	4.53	4.78
Trace Mineral Blocks	50 Lb.	6.69	6.79	5.53	5.52

¹ Northeast region: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

APRIL FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX, UP 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above the March index. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.7 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, asparagus, broccoli, and hay. Lower prices were received for lettuce, corn, celery, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of several commercial vegetables, cattle, strawberries, and dairy offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, hogs, and grapefruit. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 5 points (4.0 percent) from April 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 124, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above last month but down 3 points (2.4 percent) from April 2004.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 140 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from March and 7 points (5.3 percent) above April 2004. Higher prices in April for field crop seed, feeder cattle, hay & forages, and insecticides more than offset lower prices for feed grains, trucks, other machinery, and LP gas. Fuels: The April index, at 210, is unchanged from a month earlier but 39 percent above April 2004. Compared to last month, prices are slightly lower for LP gas but slightly higher for diesel fuel and gasoline. Feed: The April index, at 115, is 0.9 percent more than March but 12 percent below last April. Since March, higher prices for hay & forages, complete feeds, feed concentrates, and feed supplements more than offset lower prices for feed grains.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS, APRIL 30, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 2,660,000 bushels on March 31, 2005, compared to 2,999,000 bushels on March 31, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were:

York with 733,000; Rome with 730,000; and Golden Delicious with 473,000 bushels. Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 111,720,000 pounds on March 31, 2005, compared to 125,997,000 pounds on March 31, 2004. There were no pears reported in cold storage on March 31, 2005.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, vegetables, chicken, and fruit. Butter stocks were up 20 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent last month, but up 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up slightly from last month and up 21 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 8 percent from last month and up 62 percent from last year. Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2005 were 7 percent above the previous month, but down 2 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 6 percent from the previous month and up 11 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 10 percent from last month, but down 17 percent from March 31, 2005.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Mar 31, 2004	Feb 28, 2005	Mar 31, 2005
	(000) Lbs.		
Butter	158,118	110,897	132,673
Cheese, Total Natural	759,546	715,772	746,945
Eggs, Frozen	19,247	17,865	18,548
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,110,545	1,016,982	1,090,660
Chicken	604,738	634,579	671,808
Turkeys	504,561	381,934	418,532
Fruits, Frozen	715,709	879,606	750,954
Fruit Juices, Frozen	2,139,579	1,888,634	1,898,739
Vegetables, Total Frozen	1,591,734	1,994,038	1,788,477
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,192,451	1,152,818	1,094,950
Meats, Total Frozen	879,358	956,021	932,584
Beef, Total Frozen	416,772	400,285	373,636
Pork, Total Frozen	447,346	541,023	543,400

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, MARCH 2005

Variety	March 31, 2004					March 31, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	0	14	255	496	765	0	0	154	579	733
Stayman	4	5	14	5	28	5	2	26	0	33
Rome	6	38	165	228	437	2	43	360	325	730
Red Delicious	35	246	42	95	418	2	160	52	56	270
Golden Delicious ...	3	55	522	388	968	1	75	227	170	473
Gala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	1	3	6
McIntosh	3	2	8	0	13	1	2	0	11	14
Fuji	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	20	15	1	65
Other ²	17	37	205	111	370	10	61	115	150	336
Total	68	397	1,211	1,323	2,999	50	365	950	1,295	2,660

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005
Layers.....	Thous.	24,063	24,455	24,399	341,700	348,985	347,255
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,352	2,135	2,398	2,209	1,983	2,225
Eggs Produced.....	Million	566	522	585	7,547	6,919	7,726
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	5,261	4,790	5,201	37,545	32,910	39,888
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	13,039	12,951	14,870	791,915	731,274	815,782
Poult Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	24,215	21,321	23,376

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during March 2005 totaled 585 million eggs, up 3 percent from the 566 million produced in March 2004. The total number of layers averaged 24.4 million during March, up 1 percent from the 24.1 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,398 eggs during the month, an increase of 46 eggs from March 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2005 totaled 5.20 million, down 1 percent from the 5.26 million hatched the previous March. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.9 million during March 2005, up 14 percent from the 13.0 million hatched the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.73 billion during March 2005, up 2 percent from last year. The total number of layers during March averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during March 2004. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,209 eggs in March 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during March totaled 39.9 million, up 6 percent from March 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 816 million, up 3 percent from the previous March. There were 23.4 million turkey poult placed in the United States during March 2005, down 3 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during March 2005 totaled 97.2 million pounds, down 9 percent from March 2004. Beef production, at 83.2 million pounds live weight, was down

11 percent from March 2004. Total head slaughtered was 68,600, down 14 percent. Live weight averaged 1,214 pounds, up 37 pounds from last year. Veal production was 5.4 million pounds live weight, up 13 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 13,800 head was down 3 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 56 pounds to 391 pounds. Pork production was 61.0 million pounds live weight, down 3 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 247,700, down 2 percent from March 2004. Average live weight is down 3 pounds from last year to 246 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during March 2005 was 642,000 pounds live weight, down 8 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,600, up 10 percent. Average live weight decreased 20 pounds to 97 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, MAR 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	97.2	3,879
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	68.6	2,723
	Mil. Lbs. Live	83.2	3,372
Calves	Thous. Hd.	13.8	68
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.4	22
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	247.7	8,946
	Mil. Lbs. Live	61.0	2,423
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	6.6	280
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.6	39